45. Public Health. Public health has, on the whole, been satisfactory in Travancore during the last three years, and if the record of deaths maintained in municipal towns, where the registration of vital statistics is compulsory, can be accepted as a correct index, it may be stated that there has been a steady decline in mortality during this period. The State has been practically free from cholera during the period, while the mortality from smallpox has not been heavy. Draft rules have been framed under Regulation VI of 1096 for the compulsory registration of vital statistics in rural areas, but their publication in final form has been delayed for unavoidable reasons. These rules will be shortly issued.

46. Medical Department. There has been a progressive increase during this period in the number of patients treated, operations performed, and labour cases attended to by midwives. The Department of Bacteriology and Pathology, so essential to the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal cases, was started in 1097 under Dr. G. Raman Pillai, and it is proving to be an institution of great benefit to the public. Dr. J. Alexander, the Special Investigation Officer, has completed his investigations into malaria, bowel complaints and elephantiasis; and he is now investigating yaws at Mallappalli. Of the five medical officers recently sent for training to Europe, three have returned. Dr. L. A. Revai Varma has specialised in Ophthalmology and Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai in diseases of the ear, nose and throat, while Miss A. T. Martin has taken, among other degrees, the L. R. C. P. of the Edinburgh University. The remaining two are still undergoing training, one in advanced surgery and the other in bacteriology and public health. Besides the scheme, already brought into force, of giving medical officers in mofussil stations the opportunity of adding to their practical knowledge by working for a period of six months in the General Hospital, a further arrangement has recently been introduced, under which officers below the rank of Deputy Surgeons are posted to the Ophthalmic Hospital by turns with a view to enable them to get some training in the diagnosis and treatment of eye-diseases. It is also in contemplation to bring about a similar arrangement in regard to midwifery cases and diseases affecting the ear, nose and throat. The Dental and X-ray departments in the General Hospital are reported to be unsatisfactory, and schemes are under contemplation for improving their condition. Government have also recently sanctioned the deputation of one of their officers now undergoing training in Europe to study hydrology. The nursing pupils of the first batch who passed out in 1098 have been appointed as nurses with effect from the beginning of the current year, while a second batch is being organised for training. The Darbar Physician has issued a circular directing midwives to visit the homes of expectant mothers within a radius of three miles of their respective hospitals and to render such assistance as may be required by them in the way of advice, instruction and service. A scheme has also been submitted by him for the opening of a midwifery class in the Women and Children's Hospital for training a large number of midwives to take up private practice in out-of-the way places, over and above those trained for service in departmental institutions. The close of the triennium has also been marked by the celebration of the Baby Week in Trivandrum and other important centres in the State. In the hospital for lepers, systematic treatment on up-to-date lines has been introduced with gratifying results. A distribution of lepers according to the stage and progress of the disease is being attempted; and with a view to facilitate this arrangement, the Government have sanctioned the construction of three semi-permanent wards with provision for twelve beds in each. In the hospital for chronic cases, special cottages have been provided for housing and treating cases of yaws and advanced cases of consumption and for the housing of untainted children of leper patients, these children being also taught to read and write. A ward has also been set apart in the District Hospital, Quilon, for the treatment of advanced cases of consumption. Arrangements are being made for the treatment, in Trivandrum, of persons bitten by rabid animals, and when they are completed, it will no longer be necessary for such persons to proceed to Coonoor. The Darbar Physician has published a booklet on the identification of poisonous snakes and the symptoms and treatment of poisonous

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